

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /095 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9402

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1763

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOPN, EI, UK(NI), US

SUBJECT: FURTHER COVERAGE OF U.S. AND NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: DUBLIN 1728

1. COVERAGE OF THE SO-CALLED U.S. INITIATIVE ON NORTHERN IRELAND CONTINUED HEAVY ON JULY 26, BUT SEEMS TO HAVE PLAYED OUT BY JULY 27.

2. THE THREE DAILIES, CITING VARIOUS SOURCES, TOOK THE TACK ON JULY 26 THAT THE USG WOULD NOT GET INVOLVED, AND HAS NO QUOTE PEACE PLAN UNQUOTE. THE IRISH TIMES QUOTES SPEAKER O'NEILL, WHO APPEARENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT ON JULY 25. AS CITED BY THE IRISH TIMES O'NEILL MERELY REPEATED EARLIER LANGUAGE USED AFTER THE MVEETING WITH SECSTATE AND DID NOT ALLUDE TO POSSIBLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THE TIMES ALSO REPORTS FROM UNNAMED SOURCES THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT VDISCUSS THE INITIATIVE IN CABINET QUOTE SIMPLY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER. UNQUOTE. THE ARITICLE FURTHER NOTES THAT AMBASSADOR SHANNON HAS NOT YET MADE HIS OFFICIAL CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT THAT WHEN HE DID MAKE THE CALL IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD BRIEF LYNCH ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S THINKING VIS-A-VIS THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM.

3. THE JULY 26 IRISH PRESS HAD TWO SEPARATE ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT. THE MAIN SOURCE OF THE LARGER STORY WAS THE SAME UNNAMED GOI SPOKESMAN CITED BY THE TIMES AND ALSO A JULY 25 STATEMENT BY DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY REX GRANUM,

WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT QUOTE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS STUDYING WHETHER THE UNITED STATES CAN HELP TO SETTLE THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND, BUT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS NOT LOOKED INTO THE QUESTION HIMSELF. UNQUOTE. THIS ARTICLE IS HEADED QUOTE NORTH PEACE BID BY U.S. UNLIKELY: CARTER STATEMENT SOON UNQUOTE. V THE MAIN POINT OF THE STORY CONCLUDES, FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, INCLUDING SPEAKER O'NEILL, THAT THE U.S. HAS NO DEFINITE PLAN, WOULD NOT GET DIRECTLY INVOLVED, BUT WAS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER AND WOULD TAKE STRONG MEASURES AGAINST SUPPORT OF VIOLENCE. THE OTHER PRESS ARTICLE WAS BASED ON AN INTERVIEW WITH SDLP DEPUTY LEADER JOHN HUME WHO IS REGARDED AS A GREAT EXPERT ON U.S. AFFAIRS. HIME SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY DIRECT POLITICAL INTERVENTION BY PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT QUOTE THAT AMERICAN PVOLITICIANS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, WERE VERY CONV- CERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH AND THEY WOULD BE MAKING AN EFFORT TO BRING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER SO THAT A SOLUTION COULD BE WORKED OUT...AMERICAN POLITICANS WERE VERY CONSCIOUS THAT ANY MOVE THEY MADE CONCERNING THE NORTH COULD BE SEEN AS PARTISAN BY THE LOYALISTS, AND THEY WERE VERY ANXIOUS TO AVOID THIS. THEY ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF SUSPICION AND WANT TO OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO BOTH SIDES, HE ADDED UNQUOTE.

3. THE IRISH INDEPENT ARITCLE WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO THE LARGER PRESS ARTICLE AND USED THE SAME SOURCE, I.E. THE O'NEILL STATEMEVVNT AND THE GOI SPOKESMAN.
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4. COMMENT: THE PAPERS NOW SEEM TO HAVE LOST INTEREST AS THEY ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THE USG IS NOT, IN FACT, GOING TO INTERVENE OR PRODUCE A MAGIC QUOTE PEACE PLAN UNQUOTE. THE IRISH PRESS PREDICTABLY BLAMES THE LACK OF AN INITIATIVE ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. ITS JULY 27 EDITORIAL SAYS: QUOTE IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AS IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES IN AN VEFFORT TO BLOCK ANY PEACE INITIATIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND BY PRESIDENT CARTER. NO DOUBT, THE WHITEHALL ATTITUDE WAS CONVEYED TO MR. CARTER AS BEING THAT THIS WAS AN INTERNAL BRITISH MATTER. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT SO; AS WE ALL KNOW, PEACE IS INDIVISIBLE AND THERE ARE AT LEAST AS MANY INHABITANTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF IRISH EXVTRACTION WHO ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NORTHERN TRAGEDY AS THERE ARE MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WHOSE ISRAELI STATE IS BEING HELPED MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY BY AMERICA TO MAINTAIN ITS V INDEPENDENCE UNQUOTE.SHANNON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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